



LESSON 1 (Large Group)



Key Concept: God talks to kids every day, and I can learn to recognize His voice.



Bible Story: Samuel Hears God (1 Samuel 3)



Bible Verse: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27



3DM Principle: The Circle (Observing Kairos)



Large Group Overview: Kids will learn that God is speaking to them every day and how to recognize His voice.



Huddle Overview: Kids will play a game called "Circle Quest" to help them identify what it looks like to listen to God.



Lesson Outline

Lesson Set Up	Kairos Quest Theme	(3 min)
Game	Kairos Quest Challenge	(8 min)
Bible Story	Samuel and Eli	(12 min)
Application	Kairos examples for Kids	(5 min)

Lesson Set Up

Teacher enters the teaching area dressed for adventure, backpack slung over one shoulder, bundle of rope on the other.

Hey Guys, welcome to something really cool we're calling Kairos Quest.

My name is _____ and I'm glad you're here because today we are going to have an awesome time together.

Hey, does anyone have any idea what a quest is? (take answers) A quest is an adventure, usually with a big prize at stake at the end. There's excitement and danger along the way, puzzles to solve, an enemy to outwit, and plenty of mystery. It's like a treasure hunt or a top-secret mission that we've seen in hundreds of movies and books.

But our lives aren't like those adventure stories, are they? If we're honest, most of our lives SEEM pretty ordinary, boring even. We get up, brush our teeth, go to school, come home, play, watch some TV, do some homework, then go to bed and do it all over again just like everybody else we know.

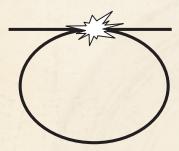
(Draw a horizontal line on the flipchart or whiteboard.)

We just go along living our plain old ordinary life, right? But then sometimes, out of the blue, bam!

(Draw a starburst in the middle of the line.)

God breaks into our day and wants to take us on an adventure, a quest.

(Draw a circle underneath the horizontal line. It should begin and end at the starburst.)



This quest takes us out of the ordinary, out of the normal, into an adventure that will blow our minds. The amazing secret that we're going to discover over the next four weeks is that there IS a very real, very awesome God who wants to take YOU on an adventure.

We're going to kick things off today with a Kairos Quest challenge called "Get Your Gear On!"

Kairos Quest Challenge: Get Your Gear On!

The purpose of this game is to introduce both the quest theme and the idea of listening.

Instructions

How to Play:

The game is played with four contestants, two boys versus two girls. Each team will receive six "clue cards" with items they must find in a trunk located in the back of the room. The first team to gather all six items wins the game.

Each team will have a "clue giver" and a "runner." When the teacher starts the game, all contestants should be in the teaching area at the front of the room. The clue giver will then draw a clue card and whisper what it says to his or her runner. The runners will then race to the trunk at the back of the room, dig out the item they need, and return it to their clue giver. As soon as they turn in their items, the clue givers can draw another card and send them back for more items until one team gathers all six items and wins the game.



Supplies:

- Two decks of "clue cards" with the following the items on them. You can write these index cards.
 - 1. Rope
 - 2. Flashlight
 - 3. Binoculars
 - 4. Compass
 - 5. Canteen
 - 6. Granola Bar
- ➤ Trunk or box with 2 sets of each item on the "clue cards." With older children you can add random objects to the trunk to make the game more challenging.
- **★** Upbeat game music.

Now everyone knows that before you begin an adventure you have to get your equipment. You have to gather all the adventure gear you will need to prepare for your quest. So today we're going to play a game to help us get ready to start our quest.

We're going to play this game boys against girls, so I'm going to need two boys and two girls to represent their teams. (*Bring up contestants.*)

One person on each team is going to be the Clue Giver, and the other person is going to be the Runner. (Hand each Clue Giver a deck of clue cards.) When I say go, the Clue Giver will the draw the first card from the deck and whisper what's on the card to the Runner. Clue Givers, you can't show your Runner the card, and you have to whisper it, so the other team doesn't hear you. Runners, your job is to run to the trunk at the back of the room and find whatever your partner told you to get. Run it back up and hand it to them, and they'll draw the next card. The first team to gather all of their objects wins the game. Are you guys ready?

(To kids in the audience) Are you guys ready?

All right, let's play "Get Your Gear On!"

Play upbeat game music. Encourage kids to cheer for their teams. Once one team has gathered all six items, stop the music.

It looks like we have a winner! Let's give it up for the winning team. Great job, guys.

(Send kids back to their seats.)

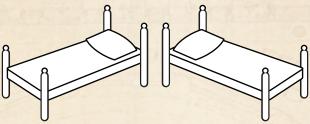
With all of this stuff up here, it looks like we're ready for an adventure. That's what Kairos Quest is all about. There is a God who loves you who wants to take you on an adventure.

(Write the word "KAIROS" on flipchart or whiteboard)

That cool breakthrough moment we talked about earlier is called "kairos." Everybody say kairos. Kairos is that awesome moment when God breaks into your day and invites you to join His adventure. Being on a kairos quest means that we're looking for where God is going to show up in our lives every day.

Our runners in today's challenge had to listen to their clue givers to find out what to do next. Just like them we have to learn to listen to God's voice to discover what He wants us to do.





Set the teaching area with two beds. You can use two cots with blankets and pillows or, if you don't have access to cots, you can use a couple of sleeping bags and pillows. Eli's bed should have a card stock sign mounted on a wooden paint stick that says, "Here I am. You called."

Today we're going to check out a kid from the Bible who had no idea how to recognize God's voice. His name was Samuel, and God had a major adventure in store for him. Now Samuel only has one line in this story that he says over and over again. So when we get to that part in the story, I'm going hold up this sign and have you say that line. Samuel says, "Here I am. You called." Let's practice it once. One, two, three.

Hold up sign. Kids respond, "Here I am. You called."

Okay, let's get started. Samuel lived a long, long time ago in a country called Israel. Where did he live? Right, Israel. How many of you guys have ever been to camp? Well, imagine if your mom sent you to camp not just for a week or a summer but to pretty much live there. That's what happened to Samuel. He lived in a very special place called the temple. It was kind of like the church in those days. It's where people went to worship God.

Samuel was a helper in the temple to a priest named Eli. Eli was getting kind of old and couldn't see very well, so Samuel helped him with all kinds of stuff. Now the Bible says that in those days in Israel, the word of the Lord was rare. In other words, people hardly ever heard God speak to them, but that was all about to change.

Walk over to Samuel's bed and sit down on it.

One night Samuel and Eli had gone bed and were trying to get some sleep, when all of a sudden Samuel heard a voice. "Samuel, Samuel," the voice said.

Now imagine this. Imagine you're snuggled down in your jammies with the covers tucked up around your neck, and just as you start to nod off, you hear someone say your name. You would probably think it was your mom or dad or someone, right?

That's just what happened to Samuel. He thought it was Eli.

Get up and walk over to Eli's bed.

He got up and went to the place where Eli was sleeping and said,

Hold up sign and encourage kids to say the phrase — "Here I am. You called."

And Eli said back to him, "What are you talking about? I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

Maybe Samuel thought he'd imagined the whole thing, so he did what he was told and went back to bed.

Walk back and sit on Samuel's bed.

But, you know what? As soon as he got all nice and comfy, the voice came again. "Samuel! Samuel!"

Get back up and return to Eli's bed.

So, Samuel got back up and went back over to Eli's bed and said,

Hold up sign and encourage kids to say the phrase — "Here I am. You called."

Now Eli was probably getting a little cranky at this point because this kid kept waking him up. "My son," Eli said. "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

Samuel was probably thinking, "This old guy is losing it. I know I keep hearing my name." But what could he do?

Walk back and sit on Samuel's bed.

So, Samuel went back to his bed one more time. He got all snuggled in, nice and cozy, and then, you guessed it, the voice spoke again.

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Get up and go to Eli's bed.

When he heard the voice, Samuel jumped up and went back to Eli and said for the third time,

Hold up sign and encourage kids to say the phrase — "Here I am. You called."

But this time Eli finally realized that Samuel wasn't just hearing things. He realized that Samuel was hearing God. Can you believe that? God Himself was calling Samuel's name, but Samuel didn't realize it because the Bible says Samuel didn't yet know the Lord. He hadn't heard God speak before and he didn't know how to recognize God's voice.

So Eli said to Samuel, "Look Samuel, God is talking to you. Go and lie back down, but this time, when God calls your name say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

And Samuel did.

Walk back to Samuel's bed but remain standing.

He went back to his bed, lay back down and listened for God to say something. Imagine what it would be like to be lying in your bed knowing that God Himself, the Creator of planets and penguins and everything, was about to talk to you.

The Bible says that the Lord came and stood by Samuel's bed and called out to him as He had before. "Samuel, Samuel," God said. And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then God went on tell Samuel an important message that Eli needed to hear.

From that day on Samuel knew God's voice. From that day on God began to speak to Samuel a lot. The Bible says the Lord was with Samuel as He grew, and they had a special friendship. God told Samuel all kinds of important things to tell the people. And just like Samuel, God wants to talk to each of us every day. He has important things to tell us, things that only God could know. Like Samuel, we need to get to know God so we can recognize His voice.

Application / Wrap-Up

This week God might talk to you in a lot of different ways, and like Samuel you might not even realize God is talking. You might be tempted just to blow it off. But, that's a kairos moment. God wants you to stop, pay attention, and check out what He's saying to you.

I'm going to give you some examples, and after each one I'm going to ask you, "What are you do when God breaks through?" And you're going to answer, "Whoa! (throw your hands up) Check it out! (put hand over eyes and turn head as if scanning the horizon)."

Let's practice once. Okay guys, what are you going to do when God breaks through?

Kids: "Whoa! Check it out!"

As you talk about each situation, pull the suggested prop out of your backpack.

Situation #1

(Hold up a backpack.) This week you might walk into school and see that same bully who's always giving you a hard time, that same bully who's always threatening to beat you up. But just when you're tempted to panic, you remember reading a Bible verse that says, "Be strong and courageous."

That's God breaking into your day with some major kairos action. What are you going to do when God breaks through?

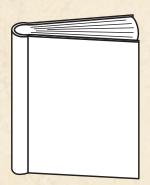


(Prompt kids) "Whoa! Check it out!"

You stop and think about that Bible verse, that God really is with you and you let him fill you up with courage.

Situation #2

(Hold up book.) This week maybe you were supposed to do a book report



but you didn't start on it until last week and you're out of time. Maybe you're thinking about cheating, but a friend of yours tells you it's not worth it and to just do your best on your own. And when he says it, you know he's right. You know God is talking to you through that friend.

So, what are you going to do when God breaks through?

(Prompt kids) "Whoa! Check it out!"

You listen to the advice God is giving you through your friend and you follow it, avoiding all kinds of trouble.

Situation #3

(Hold up playground ball.) This week, you may see a kid at recess who's always sitting by himself who just needs someone to hang out with him. Just by noticing him, that's God speaking to you, saying, "Go, show this kid I love him."



So, what are you going to do when God breaks through?

(Prompt Kids) "Whoa! Check it out!"

By going and talking to this kid, you're listening to God's voice and stepping out on an adventure with Him.

(Refer to Bible verse graphic or sign.)

The more we listen to God, the more we learn to recognize His voice. Our Bible verse this week says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27. Jesus is comparing us to sheep who learn to hear the voice of their shepherd who leads them to good places.

Today in your huddle time you're going to have an awesome time playing a game called Circle Quest that's going to help you learn what to do when God breaks through into your life this week. Let's pray.

Prayer

God, thanks that not only can we talk to You, but that You actually talk to us too. Thank You for inviting us to join You on Your adventure. Please help all of us learn to recognize Your voice this week and hear the cool things that You want to tell us.

Amen



LESSON 1 (Huddle)



Key Concept: God talks to kids every day, and I can learn to recognize His voice.



Bible Story: Samuel Hears God (1 Samuel 3)



Bible Verse: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27



3DM Principle: The Circle (Observing Kairos)



Large Group Overview: Kids will learn that God is speaking to them every day and how to recognize His voice.



Huddle Overview: Kids will play a game called "Circle Quest" to help them identify what it looks like to listen to God.



Supplies

- **★** Circle Quest Game Board
- ★ Circle Quest Game Cards
- **≭** Game Tokens
- **★** Bible Verse Cards



Huddle Group Outline

Welcome / Review Questions to review lesson (5 min)

Activity #1 Circle Quest Board Game (10 min)

Huddle Discussion (5 min)

Bible Verse (5 min)

Prayer (5 min)



HUDDLE TIME

Welcome / Large Group Review

Gather kids in a circle either on the floor or around a table.

Welcome to huddle time. In our huddle we're going to have a lot of fun unpacking what God has been saying to us in our large group time.

First of all, let's see how much you guys caught from today's story.

- **★** Can anyone tell me the name of the kid from the Bible story who heard from God? *Samuel*
- **★** Did Samuel recognize God's voice at first? *No*.
- **★** Why not? *He hadn't heard God's voice before.*
- ➤ Does God still talk to kids like you and Samuel? Yes!
- **★** What are some of the ways that God talks to people? *Through the Bible, prayer, our thoughts, other people, things that happen to us, all kinds of ways.*

The bottom line is that God can talk to us however He wants to. He will do all kinds of things to get your attention this week. Your job is to learn to hear His voice when He talks to you this week.

Huddle Activity 1: Circle Quest

The purpose of this game is to introduce both the quest theme and the idea of listening.

How to Play:

Split your small group into two groups. Assign each group a game piece. Each group will take turns traveling around the circle.

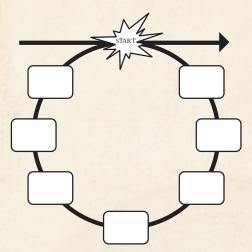
On each turn, one child from each group will draw a card. The card may be one of the following:

- * Kairos cards: A "Kairos" situation describing an everyday situation where God is speaking. The child will read the situation on the card and then will decide if the kid on the card was listening to God or not. If the child gets it right, they can move their token to the next square.
- **★ Directional cards:** Move backward, forward, or lose a turn.
- * Challenge cards: Make a silly face, jump on one foot and sing, etc. To move forward, you must complete your crazy challenge!



Supplies:

X Circle Quest game board:



- **X** Game Cards
- **Game pieces** (can use pawn from a board game or a coin)

We're going to start out by playing a game called "Circle Quest." (Hold up the game board.) Remember the line and circle the teacher drew today up on the board? That line reminds us of our normal everyday lives, right? But then, bam, God breaks through and gets our attention just like He did to Samuel. Samuel was just doing his thing, working in the temple, and then out of nowhere, God started talking to him.

Does anyone remember the word we used to describe that God-breaking-through moment? Yeah, it's called kairos. Kairos is when God is talking to us in some way.

This circle reminds us of the adventure that God takes us on. So we're going to play "Circle Quest" to help us see how God might take you on adventure this week. We're going to hear some situations about kids just like you, and your job is to figure out if they're listening to God or if they're not listening.

Here's how it works. This circle is going to be our game board. We have two teams, and we're going to see who can complete our quest first. Our quest today is to make it around the circle and back up to the start. We're going to start right here. Each of you will take a turn drawing a game card. Then read the situation. (Huddle Leaders should read for younger kids.)

If you think this was listening to God, I want you to give me a thumbs up and say, "That's the fact, Jack!" If you don't think they were listening to God, I want you to give me a thumbs down and say, "No way, Jose!" Let's all practice those.

That's a fact, Jack! (thumbs up)

No way, Jose! (thumbs down)

If you get it right, you can move the game piece forward to the next square. If not, we have to stay where we are. You might find some other cards along the way that make our adventure a little more exciting! Let's get started.

Play until one team completes the circle or you run out of cards. Declare the team that made it the farthest to be the winners.

Following are the situations that you will find printed on the cards with the answers:

Situation Cards:

- ➤ Zoe's mom packed her an awesome lunch today. She notices a girl at her table who forgot her lunch at home. Zoe keeps thinking about the time in the Bible when the poor widow gave all she had to God. She decides to share her lunch. (*That's a fact Jack!*)
- It's the beginning of the school year. Zach's parents let him do one extra-curricular activity at a time. He usually plays on the soccer team, but every time he sees the sign-up for the drama club he gets the feeling God is wanting him to do that instead. It seems like everywhere he goes he keeps seeing the signs for the drama club. Zach decides to stick with soccer because that's what he's always done. (No way, Jose!)
- ★ Lauren has a friend named Casey who keeps inviting her to go on a mission trip over spring break with her church. Casey said she prayed about who to invite and she kept thinking of Lauren. Lauren decides maybe God wants her to go, so she asks her parents if she can. (That's a fact Jack!)
- ➤ Will's friends love to make fun of the new kid in his class. Lately, he's been feeling really guilty about it, like he should say something. He keeps thinking about that kid even at home. The next time his buddies make fun of the kid, Will decides to stand up for him. (*That's a fact Jack!*)
- ➤ This week at church, Jasmine heard the teacher talk about telling the truth. Suddenly she remembered the time she lied to her mom about her homework last year. She had totally forgotten about it, but now she feels like she should come clean. Oh well, she thinks, it's been so long ago that it probably doesn't matter. She decides to blow it off. (No way, Jose!)

- Tyler sees the same kid sitting by himself at recess every day at school. Every time he walks by him, Tyler feels a tug inside, like maybe he should go talk to him or something. But then Tyler hears his friends call his name and he runs off to play basketball instead. (*No way, Jose!*)
- Shana is at a sleep-over with six other girls when one of them pulls out a scary movie that she knows her parents would never let her watch. If she says anything, she knows they might make fun of her, but she believes God is wanting her to stand up for what's right. Just as they're starting the movie, she says, "This isn't a good idea. Let's watch something else." (*That's a fact Jack!*)
- ➤ Brandon has run into the same Bible verse about courage three different times this week. He read it in a devotional book, then got to church and heard in the lesson. Later that week, he heard a song on the radio that talked about the same verse. He thought it was probably just coincidence and didn't think much about it. (*No way, Jose!*)
- Hallie has a friend who's started hanging out with some girls who get into a lot of trouble. Every time her friend mentions one of them, Hallie gets the feeling she should say something to warn her friend to be careful that they don't get her into trouble too. So the next time they talk, Hallie warns her friend. (*That's a fact Jack!*)

Challenge Cards:

- **★** Jump on one foot and sing "Happy Birthday" to someone in your group.
- **★** Make your craziest face!
- **★** Do your best imitation of a monkey!
- **★** Say "Welcome to Kairos Quest" in your best robot voice.

Huddle Discussion

Okay guys, great job on the game. As you can see, God speaks to kids in all kinds of ways. What were some of the ways God talked to the kids in our game? (*Bible verses*, other people, thoughts, etc.)

Share a short, personal story about how God has spoken to you recently.

Can you think of a time when God has talked to you? Maybe He used a Bible verse or some advice from a friend or parent or something else. *Encourage kids to answer.*

If you can't think of anything, that's okay, because it takes practice to learn to hear God's voice. Remember that He spoke to Samuel three different times before Samuel got it. And that was only after Eli said, "Hey, Samuel, that's God talking!"

So this week, I want each of you to go on a kairos quest. That means I want you to pay attention for how God may be talking to you. There may be something He wants you to know. Or something He wants you to do. Next week, when we come back here to huddle, you'll each have the chance to share what God told you.



Bible Verse

Pass out Bible verse cards to kids.

Today's Bible verse is from John 10:27 and says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." This is Jesus saying that when we follow Him, we learn to hear his voice. Let's practice that Bible verse together.

Have kids repeat Bible verse. For fun you can have them say it several different times in different ways (loud, whisper, robot voice, French accent, cowboy voice, etc.)

Prayer

Take prayer requests. Write them down so that you can pray over them during the week. Take time to pray together as a group. You may want to close out with a prayer like the following one.

God, thanks that not only can we talk to you, but that you actually talk to us to. Thank you for inviting us to join You on your adventure. Please help all of us learn to recognize your voice this week and hear the cool things that You want to tell us.

Amen



Bible Verse Cards



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - John 10:27



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

— John 10:27



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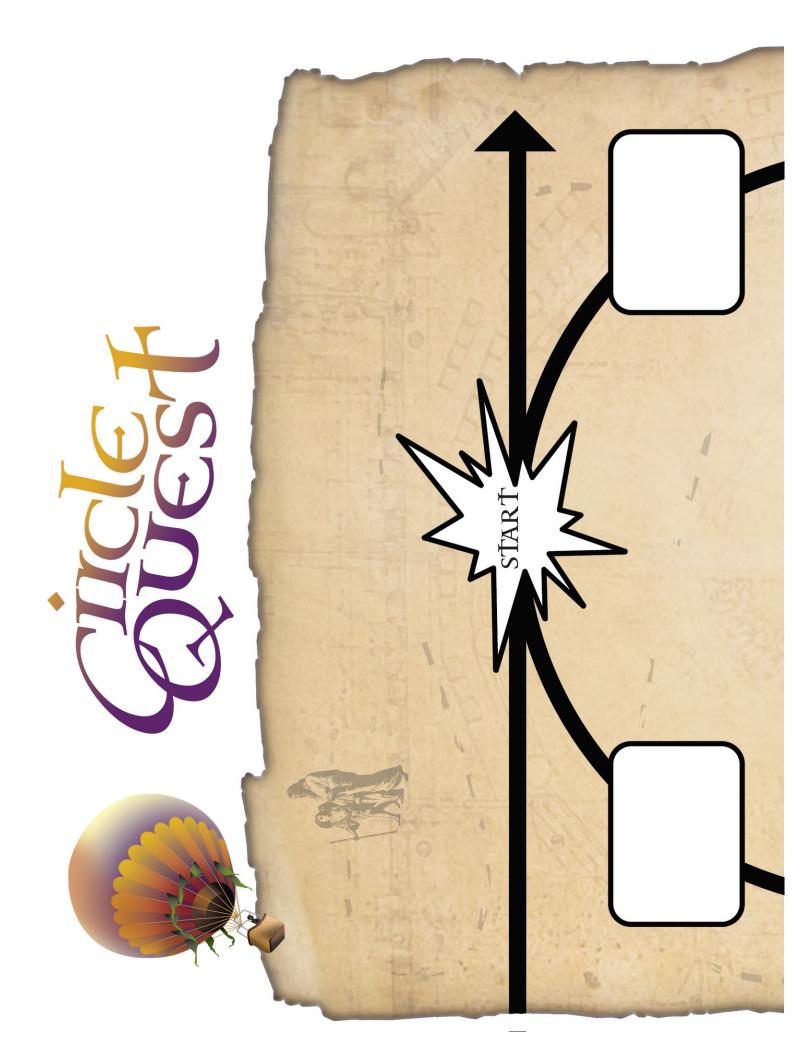
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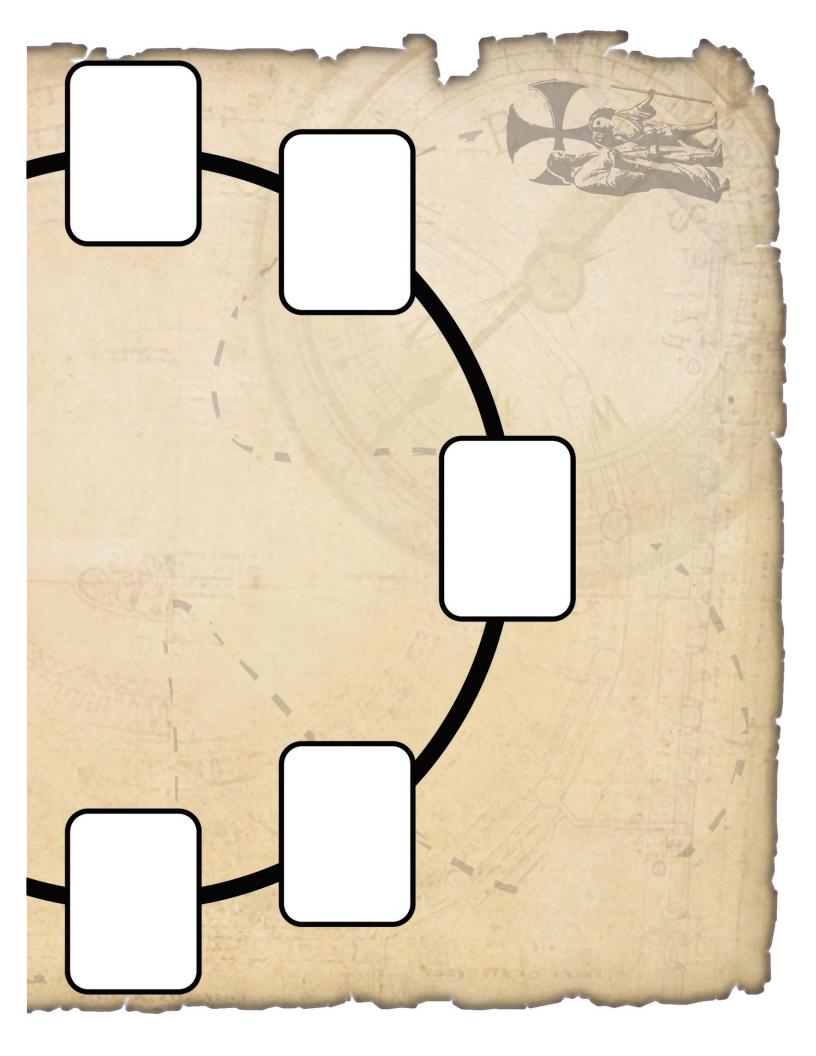
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Circle Quest Game Cards

Circle Quest

Zoe's mom packed her an awesome lunch today. She notices a girl at her table who forgot her lunch at home. Zoe keeps thinking about the time in the Bible when the poor widow gave all she had to God. She decides to share her lunch.

Circle Quest

It's the beginning of the school year. Zach's parents

let him do one extra-curricular activity at a time. He usually plays on the soccer team, but every time he sees the sign-up for the drama club he gets the feeling God is wanting him to do that instead. It seems like everywhere he goes he keeps seeing the signs for the drama club. Zach decides to stick with soccer because that's what he's always done.

Circle Quest

Lauren has a friend named Casey who keeps inviting her to go on a mission trip over spring break with her church. Casey said she prayed about who to invite and she kept thinking of Lauren. Lauren decides maybe God wants her to go, so she asks her parents if she can.

Kallos QUEST Circle Quest

Will's friends love to make fun of the new kid in his class. Lately, he's been feeling really guilty about it, like he should say something. He keeps thinking about that kid even at home. The next time his buddies make fun of the kid, Will decides to stand up for him.

Circle Quest

This week at church, Jasmine heard the teacher

talk about telling the truth. Suddenly she remembered the time she lied to her mom about her homework last year. She had totally forgotten about it, but now she feels like she should come clean. Oh well, she thinks, it's been so long ago that it probably doesn't matter. She decides to blow it off.

KOUEST Circle Quest

Tyler sees the same kid sitting by himself at recess every day at school. Every time he walks by him, Tyler feels a tug inside, like maybe he should go talk to him or something. But then Tyler hears his friends call his name and he runs off to play basketball instead.



Circle Quest Game Cards

Circle Quest

Shana is at a sleep-over with six other girls when

one of them pulls out a scary movie that she knows her parents would never let her watch. If she says anything, she knows they might make fun of her, but knows God's wanting her to stand up for what's right. Just as they're starting the movie, she says, "This isn't a good idea. Let's watch something else."

COUEST Circle Quest

Brandon has run into the same Bible verse about courage three different times this week. He read it in a devotional book, then got to church and heard in the lesson. Later that week, he heard a song on the radio that talked about the same verse. He thought it was probably just coincidence and didn't think much about it.

QUEST Circle Quest

Hallie has a friend who's started hanging out with some girls who get into a lot of trouble. Every time her friend mentions one of them, Hallie gets the feeling she should say something to warn her friend to be careful that they don't get her into trouble too. So the next time they talk Hallie warns her friend.

Kallos QUEST Circle Quest

Zoe's mom packed her an awesome lunch today. She notices a girl at her table who forgot her lunch at home. Zoe keeps thinking about the time in the Bible when the poor widow gave all she had to God. She decides to share her lunch.

Circle Quest

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Circle Quest

Lauren has a friend named Casey who keeps inviting her to go on a mission trip over spring break with her church. Casey said she prayed about who to invite and she kept thinking of Lauren. Lauren decides maybe God wants her to go, so she asks her parents if she can.



Circle Quest Game Cards















Circle Quest Game Cards















LESSON 1 (Family)



Today I Learned: God talks to kids every day, and I can learn to recognize His voice.

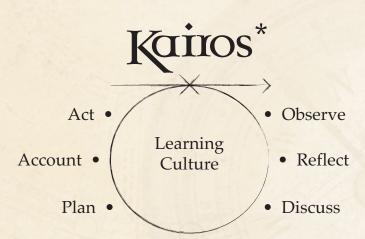


Bible Story: Samuel hears God. (1 Samuel 3)



Family Challenge

Take a family walk this week and listen for hidden sounds. See how many sounds you can discover that you might normally miss when you're playing, talking, or laughing. When you get home, review all of the sounds and talk about how we often don't hear them because we're not paying attention. Remind kids that in the same way, we can miss hearing God's voice if we're not listening for Him.



^{*} The four questions you are asking are ways of figuring out what your kids' Kairos moment was



Dinnertime Discussion

At dinner time this week, ask one of these questions to get your family talking.

- 1. What was your favorite part of today?
- 2. What was the funniest thing you saw today?
- 3. What was the hardest thing that happened to you today?
- 4. If you could have a do-over, what would you do differently today?

Use these questions to help kids discover how God may be trying to get their attention through the circumstances of their day. Follow up these conversations by asking kids how the events of the day made them feel and what God might want them to do about it.